

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

June 2025

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 2025

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello Everyone,

I'd like to start with another apology for the short President's Letter. My wife's and my medical issues persist, but I am told by the doctors that there is indeed a light at the end of the tunnel. We are close to the end of our adventures.

Our 2025 Tailgate Party (in lieu of Hamfest) was back on June 7th: this year we had a confluence of poor weather. It was humid and we had a persistent light rain and wind, the combination of which kept attendance down significantly. As such, the club's take was down compared to recent years, however we still managed to turn a profit.

Our two club photographers, George / K4GVT and Rosalie / KN4ZLY, have once again provided us with many memories. Our Tailgate Party once again hosted the Virginia QSO Party Awards.

Most importantly to me, a Big Thank You to all of our volunteers for doing a tough job under less than optimal conditions.

On Saturday, June 14th will be our June OVH Monthly Breakfast Get Together at the Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Rd, Manassas at 8:00 am onward, We usually have 6 to 10 people that show up. We hope to see you there.

The next regular monthly OVH meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 17th at 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas.

And lastly the ARRL 2024 Field Day, which is always the fourth full weekend in June, will be begin at 1800 UTC (2:00 pm local time) Saturday, June 28th and run through 2059 UTC Sunday, June 29th. See, <https://www.arrl.org/field-day> for more details.



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 4293

Manassas, Virginia 20108-0728

OFFICERS

President:	Ken Brant	KN4DD	622-2638
Vice Pres:	Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431
Secretary:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Treasurer:	Jeff Porter	K9VEG	216-7734

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdel	W4HJL	369-2877
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451
Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3566

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

JOHN	KG4NXT	257-3566
Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time		

TAILGATE (HAMFEST) 2024 - CHAIRMAN

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2024 - CHAIRWOMAN

Cat	otohime.1978@gmail.com	KM4PBD	571-213-2179
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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VE COORDINATOR

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open - volunteer needed!

ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
See http://pwcares.org	email: kg4giy@arrl.net	

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Don	WA2SWX	597-3211

GENERATORS

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

WARRIOR BIKE RIDE - CHAIRMAN

Andy	andy@gamponia.com	KJ4MTP	785-4651
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WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET + Twitter & Facebook

Kevin	W4RKU	540-445-5183
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638

Web Committee "help request" email: webmaster@w4ovh.net

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE - OVH COORDINATOR

George	K4GVT	791-5956
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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CHRISTMAS / YEAR END PARTY - CHAIRPERSON

Theresa.	KG4TVM	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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QUARTERMASTER

Open - volunteer needed!

THURSDAY NIGHT NET / REPEATER CONTROLLERS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KE2N	753-8587
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794
James	KQ4CAX	628-5186
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Cat	KM4PBD	571-213-2179

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ken	KE2N	753-8587
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. Copyright © 2024 by the Ole Virginia Hams which holds its regular monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia except during the COVID pandemic (in 2020-2021) during which the monthly meetings were held online. The Newsletter will have login details for monthly online meetings if applicable. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeater each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>. Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and other source(s) noted. Proposed materials for publication, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited. Forward such items to the Newsletter Editor: paul@w4zb.com. Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20240714

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The OVH club's local version of ARRL Field Day – which is a major club event each year - will be under the big pavilion at the Nokesville Park, 12560 Aden Rd, Nokesville, Virginia, ARRL Maidenhead Locator Square: FM18fq. For GPS users who have not been there before, Punch in: 38° 41' 07" N -77° 34' 43" W.

As always, this will be a rain or shine event as pavilion roof provides cover from rain. Come on out and tune in the world. We will once again be launching a hydrogen filled weather balloon. Additionally, we will again be led by Bruce / KN4GDX.

If you are new to the hobby, I recommend that you come out Friday & Saturday morning to help with the setting up. It is truly a learning experience. Time will pass very quickly, and before you know it, we will be ready.

Again, for those new to the hobby, once Field Day officially begins, we try to make as many contacts as we can in that 24-hour period, using phone, Morse code and the new digital modes. We do this either singularly dedicated to one mode only or by using any combination of those 3 modes. It's all up to you.

Saturday Night will be our Pot Luck Dinner. Bring a favorite dish to share; dinner will be around 5 PM. After all, this is a family event.

Lastly, on July 26, 2025, 7 30 AM to noon, the Ole Virginia Hams will be hosting another VE session, led by Mark / WA4KFZ, at Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, Centreville, 14640 Soucy Place, Centreville, Virginia.

If you didn't already know, the ARRL VE Teams have a stated goal of going completely digital sometime in 2025. This means the teams will be able to administer exams online or do remote video-supervised sessions. For more current information about ARRL's effort, please see page 75 of July 2025's QST digital edition. OVH's VE Coordinator, Mark / WA4KFZ, has been hard at work for several months now, learning the ins and outs of ARRL's new system so that he can make sure the OVH can confidently offer this option, too. He will let us know when he is ready for our Volunteer Examiners to begin their training. Thanks, Mark.

A reminder to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF FM repeater net at 8 PM - details are on the OVH's web site: <https://w4ovh.net> This is a great way to stay in touch.

Questions, comments or war stories should be directed to my e-mail: kn4dd@arrl.net

73 Ken KN4DD

Sunshine Corner



Happy Birthday wishes to the following OVH club members with birthdays in June: Bob / K4HJF, Jan / KE4TMW, Ed / KQ4DPP, Jim / KM4SXM, Robert / W4PHX, Seth / WA0FZY, Wayne / AG4ZZ, Gene / N4HFW, Daniela / KQ4IKQ, David / KQ4BDS, Dana / KM4TTP, Ron / K3FR and William / KO4QDL. Hope each of you



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have a great year ahead!

We have quite a few of our club members on the injured reserve list for one reason or the other – surgery, sickness, family member health issues – so let's send healing thoughts to everyone for complete and quick recoveries.

The 2025 Tail Gate Event is now in the books, Mother Nature had other ideas that weekend but we did muscle our way thru. Special thanks to John KG4NXT who was the chair for this event. Also thanks to the club members who came out to help make sure everything ran smoothly.

Happy Father's Day to all our dads!

Next, on to ARRL / OVH FIELD DAY on June 28th and 29th, which will be at the Nokesville Park, our home away from home for that weekend.

Please make the effort to come out and spend some time on the air, and perhaps also watch the balloon launches. See the further description in the President's Letter, in the Field Day Flyer and later in this Newsletter. This is one of the Club's major annual events so plan to attend if possible.

Please check and make sure on the Members Only Log-In at W4OVH.net that the OVH has all of the correct and up-to-date information on file for you!

Remember that the OVH Thursday night VHF and UHF FM net is at 8:00 pm each Thursday evening. It is a great way to keep up with current events and hear what other active OVH members are up to with their radios! Details are on the W4OVH.NET web site.

Please send me your news, good, not so good and ham related info!

73 Theresa / KG4TVM kg4tvm@hotmail.com Tel: 703-257-3566



Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on May 20, 2025:

OVH Vice President, Gil / KM4OZH, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on May 20, 2025 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and callsigns.

Bruce / KN4GDX gave the presentation on satellites, including info on the now defunct green cube. He explained the need for high altitude satellites and the difficulty of getting a ride for them. He also explained the Horus balloon program. The slides will be posted on our website.

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The minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting were approved.

Jeff / K9VEG gave the treasurer's and it was approved.

Luther / WA3FMO gave the membership report which was no membership actions this month.

ARES: No report this month.

Ken / KE2N gave the Repeater report by email. All repeaters are working. No new DStar applications this month. The problem with the 220 machine continues.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave the training report. ARRL VE testing will move to computers by end of the year. We will need to train our VEs.

Tailgate: John / KG4NXT gave the report. A mail-chimp email blast has been made to over 1500 potential attendees. HRO is displaying the OVH's flyers. We will have a final planning meeting on May 27th.

Field Day: Cat / KM4PBD will have a joint planning meeting with Tailgate on May 27. Butch / W4HJL will copy the bulletin for extra points. Bruce / KN4GDX will launch two balloons for the educational extra points – one with APRS and the other with WSPR on board.

Web site: No report this month.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report. Birthdays were mentioned. She mentioned that Luther / WA3FMO has a new knee.

50/50 raffle was won by Noah / KO4IDI.

Old Business: None

New Business: We will help with a Firecracker race to be held on July 4th at the Manassas George Mason University campus. Contact John or Theresa.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, July 5, 2025. Harrisburg PA Firecracker Electronics Expo and Hamfest. 7:00 am to 4:00 pm - 1500 Roberts Valley Road, Harrisburg PA. Harrisburg is about a two hour drive from the Manassas area, fastest way there is usually north on Route 15 into Pennsylvania. A Flyer later in this Newsletter provides more information.

OVH EVENTS

Saturday, June 28 through Sunday, June 29, 2025 - ARRL and OVH Field Day event put on by the OVH at the Nokesville Community Park. This will be good on-the-air operating event with

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plenty of other ham stations throughout North America to contact. The OVH as usual will have several separate operating stations set up at the Nokesville Park so that everyone attending or visiting the event can have an opportunity to make contact(s). This is also a major OVH family related event, with a club pot luck dinner on that Saturday evening. There will also be two Balloon launches on Saturday. Plan to attend.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

Saturday, June 28 through Sunday, June 29, 2025 - ARRL Field Day is a major on-the-air operating event in North America with large numbers of stations active on the air.

Also, see, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for more information and details about many other contests on the ARRL maintained Contest web page, A more comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained at <https://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM. Another very good web site for info is NG3K.com. If you have the radio contesting bug or just want to find out how much is going on - a lot -, these are very good places to look!

PUBLIC EVENTS / PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

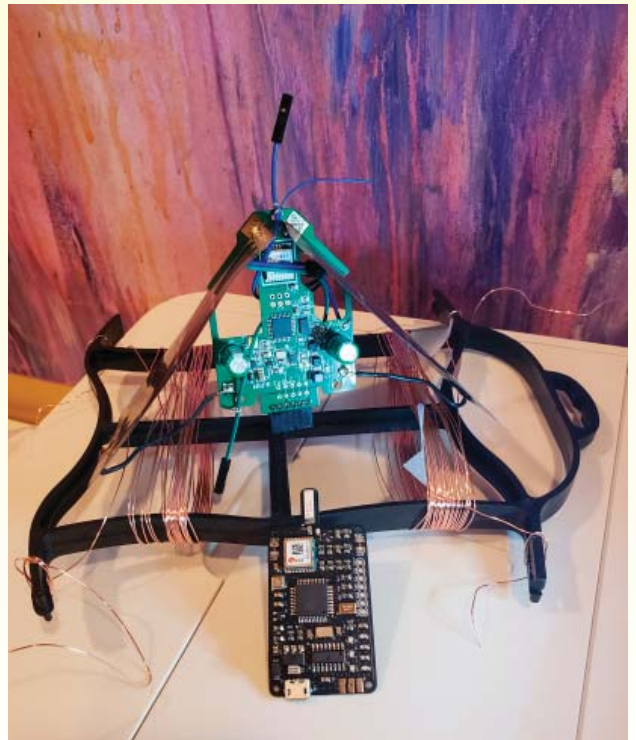
Check the online Calendar on the OVH's web site at W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related events. Also, check the online Calendar maintained by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcares.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David / KG4GIY also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Preview for the Amateur High Altitude Balloon (HAB) Launches Planned for 15:00 local time at W4OVH Field Day - June 28, 2025

Two amateur payloads are being prepared for the Field Day 2025 launch; currently planned for ~1500 on June 28 at the field day W4OVH site.

The first is similar to the 2024 HAB payload launch. It is a WSPR payload programmed for the 20 meter band. The payload is sitting next to its 20 meter dipole antenna and is currently being tested. Power is supplied by two solar panels, seen edge-on here, and backed up with two super capacitors which are seen here as the large components on the board. At launch, the payload is suspended between the two 17 foot legs of the 20 meter dipole.

The lower board in this view is the second payload. It is currently planned as a second



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balloon launch. The board contains an APRS payload which will transmit through a 50 cm antenna on the 2 meter APRS frequencies. The antenna is attached downward from the board; and the GPS receiver is on the upper edge of the board. The power source and physical attachment is currently being evaluated, but will likely be a solar panel and super capacitor arrangement similar to the WSPR payload. Programming the payload's on-board computer is done with the Arduino IDE using a payload and board-specific application. The programming effort is underway and will be followed by constructing the power source and then testing on 'live' APRS receivers.

Each payload weighs about one ounce, including GPS receivers and antennas. The balloons are planned to be 48 or 72 inch latex.

The weather conditions on Field Day will determine the "go" or "no-go" decision for the launches since rain and/or heavy winds will compromise the launch process. As in 2024, the balloon lift will be provided by hydrogen gas. An improved loading system has been developed and is also being leak-tested with the actual launch balloons and compressed air.

Bruce / KN4GDX - Chief Balloon Payload Designer & Launcher

Recap of Manassas Tailgate Event on Saturday, June 7, 2025

The weather was not particularly cooperative for the June 7, 2025 event and the turnout was lower that would have occurred had it been simply a clear, sunny day. Light rain was intermittent for several hours before the event started very early, but the rain ceased completely by mid-morning. The OVH did net a modest amount, but considerably less than hoped for. Thanks to all OVH members who participated. Following are some pictures from the event.



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Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club

Cordially invites the public to attend

ARRL FIELD DAY



www.arrl.org

2:00 PM Saturday, June 28th - 2:00 PM Sunday, 29th

Nokesville Park, 12560 Aden Road, Nokesville, VA

Rain or Shine! We will be under the big pavilion. Come on out and tune in the world!

Saturday Night Pot Luck Dinner! Bring a favorite dish to share, dinner around 5 pm! This is a family event!

Balloon Launch Saturday afternoon

All are welcome!

Any questions; please see our webpage at www.w4ovh.net or Facebook Ole Virginia Hams W4OVH

GPS Coordinates Latitude 38.6853961°, Longitude:-77.5772117°
We are at the large Pavilion just past all the baseball fields.

Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club

54th Annual W3UU

FIRECRACKER

Electronics Expo & Hamfest

Saturday, July 5, 2025

• ARRL Sanctioned •

Harrisburg Postal Employees Picnic Grounds

1500 Roberts Valley Road • Harrisburg • PA

Latitude: 40.263680° N • Longitude: -76.890739° W

General Admission: \$10.00 per person – includes Tail Gating – one price for all! NO Advance Sale Tickets.

OPEN 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pavilion Tables: (by special reservation) contact Terry Snyder, WB3BKN • PO Box 355 • Halifax • PA 17032 • Ph. 717-979-9515 (dealer setup Friday, July 4, 2025, 3-5 p.m.; 6+ a.m. on Saturday)



- ☒ **Door Prizes:** **Grand giveaway** (must be present) a new Yaseu FT-891
- ☒ **Largest Tail Gate Electronic Flea Market** in Central PA • lots of general parking!
- ☒ **Hundreds of tailgate spaces available**
- ☒ **New and refurbished equipment dealers on site**
- ☒ **Check for updated list of vendors at www.w3uu.org**
- ☒ **Great Food (Breakfast and Lunch)**
- ☒ **Meeting areas available for clubs and discussions (must Pre-Register (contact Terry - see above))**
- ☒ **DXCC/WAS/VUCC QSL Card checking on site**

